

ORAL AND DENTAL DISEASES (a Text-book for Dental Students and a Reference Book for Dental and Medical Practitioners). By Hubert H. Stones, M.D., M.D.S., F.D.S.R.C.S.(Eng.). Third edition. (Pp. xiv + 1,019; figs. 959. 100s.) Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone, 1954.

THAT three editions of this book have been published in six years is a testimony to its popularity with the dental profession; its claim to be a reference book to the medical practitioner needs justification.

The mouth not only exhibits the ravages of dental and parodontal diseases but also acts as a mirror of general health. Many systemic illnesses have marked oral manifestations; sometimes these lesions are the first indication of illness. In this volume the physician will find clear, concise, and profusely illustrated descriptions of such lesions—for example, those associated with the osteodystrophies and the hypovitaminoses, the anæmias, purpura and the leukæmias, the various exanthemata, tuberculosis, and syphilis. A number of rarer conditions like vanadium poisoning and Sjögren's syndrome, to mention but two, are also dealt with. In addition, there are sections on tumours of the oral cavity, and on focal infection of dental origin. Even the chapters that appear to be of mainly dental interest can be dipped into with profit for a knowledge of the etiology of caries or the possibilities of treatment of simple parodontal disease may help to reduce misunderstanding between doctor and dentist.

The whole text of the second edition has been revised and many recent references added. By pruning anything that has become obsolescent much new material has been incorporated with the addition of only a few pages; in fact, the new volume is somewhat slimmer and weighs  $\frac{3}{4}$  lb. less than its predecessor—a matter of some importance to the peripatetic student if not to the practitioner. Once again the publishers have produced a handsome volume with clear type and close on one thousand illustrations.

P. F. S.

INTRODUCTION TO MEDICINE FOR DENTAL STUDENTS. By R. W. M. Strain, B.Sc., M.D., F.R.C.P.I. (Pp. 224. 15s.) Bristol: John Wright.

FOR several years Dr. Strain has had practical experience in preparing dental students for examination in medicine at Queen's University, Belfast. It was at the late Sir William Thomson's suggestion that he accepted the onerous task of writing this book.

No one knows better than the reviewer, who, about fifteen years ago, gave the first series of systematic lectures in medicine to dental students at Queen's University, Belfast, how perplexing it is to know just how much to divulge and how much to withhold. Examining physicians vary like the four winds in their approach to the dental candidate, who feels like a fish out of water in this part of his curriculum anyway. Some expect him to be proficient in percussion and auscultation; others are less exacting in their demands.

Dr. Strain has performed his work admirably. If he errs, it is on the side of generosity, and it is looking a gift horse in the mouth to complain of that. Indeed, after a careful perusal of the text, one knows that, in addition to its being an excellent text-book and reference book for dental students, every medical student would benefit substantially from reading it early in his hospital years. The sections on the respiratory, cardio-vascular and alimentary systems are particularly valuable. It is pleasant to see references to axioms and aphorisms of such well-known teachers of the Belfast Medical School as Lindsay and Fielden.

Knowing Dr. Strain's distinction in the arts of drawing and photography, it is regrettable to find so few diagrams and no photographs. It is to be hoped that he will thus embellish subsequent editions.

The style is clear and dramatic; a mine of accurate information is attractively and coherently subdivided, paraphrased and tabulated. There is a useful index. The book is well printed and bound, and is a bargain at fifteen shillings. It can be favourably recommended to medical as well as dental students.

J. C. D.